Setting up of A Railway Division at Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar

96. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government to set up a Division of Railways at Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have, in principle, accepted the proposal to set up a Division at Ahmedabad; and

(c) if so, by when the Railway Division at Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL LIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Request had been received from the Gujarat Government for setting up of a new Railway Division at Ahmedabad. However, financial constraints have precluded the possibility of going in for any new Division for the present.

Sale of Railway Land in Delhi

97. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been worked out to sell/commercialise railway land in Delhi;

(b) if so, the area of railway land earmarked for this purpose in Delhi; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dismantling of Fencing Around Disputed Ram Janambhumi Complex

98. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that attempts have been made to dismantle the protective fencing around, the disputed Ram Janambhumi complex of Ayodhya, U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) According to information received from the State Government, the outer barricading has been removed from the sides on which the wall has been constructed. On the northern side, where the wall has not been constructed, the barricading is intact. The inner barricading is also intact.

(c) The Central Government has, from time to time, conveyed to the State Government its concern about the security of the disputed structure and the need to maintain adequate security measures in this regard.

Verification of Weight of Loaded Coal in Wagons

99. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide the rechecking faciiity to verify weight of the loaded coal in wagons for which Railway receipts are issued; if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have considered insurance cover from Collieries to destination for coal transhipment; if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of coal is poured with High velocity into wagons and the instant weighing is 20 per cent higher than the actual; and

(d) whether the Railways have changed weighment point few kilometers away from the loading point ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Consignors, in loading are required not to exceed the permissible carrying capacity of the wagon used. While cent percent check of weight of loaded wagons at the originating points is not possible for operational reasons, sample checks are conducted enroute or at destination to detect cases of overloading of wagons.

(b) No, Sir. Coal can be booked at 'Railway Risk' Rates, on payment of prescribed tariff.

(c) Coal loading is done in the Colliery sidings by staff of Collieries and is not supervised by the Railways.

(d) While weighbridges provided by the Collieries are located at close proximity to the loading points. weighbridges provided by the Railways are located taking into consideration the suitability from the operational point of view. Two Railway Weighbridges at Bhaga and Mohuda on South Eastern Railway have been closed due to inadequate coal traffic. Consequently, distances between some coal loading and weighment points have increased.

Privatisation of Coach and Locomotive Units

100. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has suggested privatisation of the coach and locomotive production units of the Indian Railways ;

(b) whether the Railwaymen's Federations have strongly protested against the privatisation move ; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Federations have protested against the privatisation of railway catering.

(c) The Government will not take any decision which leads to any retrenchment of staff.

Conversion of Meter Gauge into Broad Gauge in Goa

101. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of converting the meter gauge into broad gauge in Goa has been initiated ;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed ; and

(c) what is the total length of this track in Goa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The work has been included in the Budget for 1992-93.

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) 79.06 kms.

Konkan Railway Corporation

102. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no takers to build Konkan Railway bridges due to non availability of the technology; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to over-come this difficulty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.